

Preface

On March 3, 2018, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies held an international workshop to examine modern migratory connections between Xinjiang, a northwest province in China, and the Middle East, especially from the 1940s to 1960s. Following the Republic of China's defeat in 1949 and the subsequent transfer of the authority over Xinjiang to the People's Republic of China, several Turkic minority ethnic groups living in the Xinjiang province, mostly Uyghurs and Kazakhs, were forced to migrate to Middle East, particularly to Turkey. This workshop, entitled "Emigrants/Muhacir from Central Asia to the Middle East: The Case of Xinjiang (1940s–1950s)," looked to explore the international context of Uyghur and Kazakh migration to the Middle East.

Understanding the international dimensions of this topic requires diverse approaches from a variety of regional perspectives, including that of the Soviet Union, the United States, and Taiwan. Thus, the workshop included a number of scholars from across the globe. The involvement of a such a diversity of perspectives on issues of Central Asian migration enabled workshop participants to examine ties between Turkic ethnic groups in Turkey and Central Asia, particularly in Xinjiang, from an interdisciplinary perspective. Participation in this workshop by a unique cadre of international scholars furthered existing knowledge of the migratory histories of Turkic migrants from Xinjiang, shedding light on the drivers of migration and the nature of these migrant communities in the Middle East. Together, the research presented by workshop participants has held to establish a historical foundation of the multiethnic communities living in the Middle East today, providing a necessary foundation from which contemporary instability of Middle East can be further explored. In doing so, the workshop contributed to the development of a new comparative approach to the study of multiethnic societies in the Middle East.

This volume of proceedings is based on the research of five international scholars who took part in the workshop, as well as one scholar, Dr. TUNCER, who was unfortunately unable to attend. Chapter 1 by Abdulvahap KARA provides an overview of the general history of Kazakh migration from Xinjiang to Turkey. In

Chapter 2, Ömer KUL discusses the push by Uyghur migrants in Turkey to integrate Turkish people into the Uyghur nationalist movement and the integration of Uyghur migrants within modern Turkey. Chapter 3 by Jin NODA analyzes the influence of the Soviet Union on Kazakh emigration from Xinjiang, with special focus on the role of a Kazakh leader, Ospan Batur in driving Kazakh migration. In Chapter 4, Ryosuke ONO examines the activity of American diplomat J.H. Paxton and the US-sponsored Escapee Program for Kazakh migrants in Kashmir. Justin JACOBS, in Chapter 5, touches on relations between Xinjiang refugees and Yolbars Khan, an Uyghur politician and president of the Xinjiang government exiled in Taiwan, with special focus on the impact of Cold War politics on the relationship between these refugees and Khan. Finally, in Chapter 6, Tekin TUNCER explores the account of Mehmet Cantürk, shedding light on the migratory processes of those who immigrated to Turkey via Afghanistan.

We would like to express our gratitude to all participants in the workshop, including Mr. Ryosuke ONO, the co-editor of this volume who led the organization of this workshop. We would like to extend special gratitude to Professors Nobuaki KONDO and Masato IZUKA of Research Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa (ILCAA) as well as Dr. Akira MATSUNAGA for his invaluable comments on workshop presentations.

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Jin NODA